

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CARACA 07550 301503Z

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 SP-02 PM-03 L-01

SAB-01 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00 INRE-00

DODE-00 ACDA-10 /052 W

-----018123 301506Z /40

O 301432Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8586

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 7550

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PN, VE, US

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT PEREZ COMMENTS ON BOGOTA MEETING
ON PANAMA CANAL

1. PRESIDENT PEREZ CALLED ME TO HIS OFFICE AFTERNOON
OF JULY 29, AND TOLD ME THAT HE HAD BEEN CAUGHT BY
SURPRISE BY THE COLOMBIAN ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING THE
UPCOMING MEETING OF CHIEFS OF STATE ON THE PANAMA CANAL.
HE SAID THAT AS HE HAD TOLD ME ON JULY 20, CARACAS 7344
(NOTAL), TORRIJOS HAD RAISED THE QUESTION OF SUCH A
MEETING BUT THAT HE (CAP) HAD TOLD TORRIJOS THAT HE DID
NOT WANT TO SET A DATE AND WOULD PREFER TO WAIT UNTIL
ALL NEGOTIATIONS WERE FINISHED. THEREFORE, CAP SAID,
HE WAS NOT SURE WHAT HAPPENED OR PROMPTED THE COLOMBIAN
ANNOUNCEMENT. HE HAD A CALL IN TO LOPEZ MICHELSEN. HE
SAID HE KNEW THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WAS MEETING WITH
THE PANAMANIAN NEGOTIATORS TODAY, AND HE WONDERED IF
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PAGE 02 CARACA 07550 301503Z

THINGS IN FACT HAD MOVED RAPIDLY AND IF NEGOTIATIONS WERE
VIRTUALLY FI
ISHED. HE SAID THAT IF THAT WERE NOT THE CASE,
THEN HE GUESSED THAT TORRIJOS SIMPLY MANEUVERED AND GOT A
FIRM DATE ANNOUNCED, PERHAPS TO PUT SOME PRESSURE ON THE
NEGOTIATING PROCESS.

2. I ASKED THE PRESIDENT IF HE WERE GOING TO BOGOTA NEXT WEEK. HE SAID HE COULD NOT VERY WELL REFUSE SINCE IT WAS ANNOUNCED, AND THAT IN FACT IN RESPONSE TO PRESS QUERIES HE SAID HE WOULD GO. (IN PRESS CONFERENCE JULY 29, CAP ALSO ADDED THAT HE HOPED CHIEFS OF STATE WOULD BE ABLE TO REVIEW FINAL DRAFT OF TREATY). I TOLD THE PRESIDENT THAT I HAD NO FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE NEGOTIATIONS OR ON PRES. CARTER'S MEETING (AT THE TIME I HAD NOT RPT NOT RECEIVED STATE 178801). CAP ASKED ME IF I COULD ASCERTAIN WHAT THE STATUS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WAS AND LET HIM KNOW. HE PROMISED, IN TURN, TO LET ME KNOW, AFTER HE TALKED TO LOPEZ MICHELSEN WHAT THE BOGOTA MEETING LOOKED LIKE.

3. ACTION REQUESTED. I WILL ASK TO SEE CAP AGAIN EARLY NEXT WEEK AND PASS HIM GIST OF STATE 178801. I WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING ANY ADDITIONAL ASSESSMENTS OR VIEWS DEPT WOULD LIKE TO PASS ON. IS THERE ANY "MESSAGE" DEPT WOULD LIKE TO GIVE CAP REGARDING THE BOGOTA MEETING OR THE NEGOTIATIONS GENERALLY?
VAKY

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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Sent Date: 30-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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